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Peacebuilding Commission

Eleventh session
2017 annual session

Summary record of the second part* of the 1st meeting
Reconvened at Headquarters, New York, on Friday, 30 June 2017, at 5 p.m.

Chair: Mr. Cho Tae-yul ..... (Republic of Korea)

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* The summary record of the first part of the meeting, held on Friday, 30 June 2017, at 10 a.m., appears as document PBC/11/AS/SR.1.

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The meeting was reconvened at 5.10 p.m.

Closure of the session

Remarks by the President of the General Assembly

1. **Mr. Thompson** (New Zealand), President of the General Assembly, said that the focus on partnerships for financing for peace at the 2017 annual session was particularly timely. The adoption in 2016 of parallel resolutions on the review of the peacebuilding architecture by the General Assembly and the Security Council (A/RES/70/262 and S/RES/2282 (2016) had signalled an important shift in how the United Nations approached peace and security, by acknowledging that through investment in prevention and peace, the colossal human and financial costs of conflict could be averted. However, it was increasingly clear that new and innovative models for sustainable financing would be needed if the international community was to implement the sustaining of peace.

2. Earlier in 2017, a High-Level Financing Lab had been convened in support of the implementation of the Sustainable Development Goals, an event which brought together key partners from across governments, the World Bank Group, civil society and the private sector to discuss ways to mobilize the enormous resources necessary to implement long-term sustainable development objectives. The main conclusion had been that the financing needed to fund the Goals already existed, but that the right incentives must be put in place to shift investments accordingly.

3. That conclusion was directly relevant to discussions on securing sustainable financing for peace. By its very nature, sustaining peace was a shared responsibility that involved national governments, the United Nations, civil society, international financial institutions, the private sector and grassroots organizations. All options should therefore be explored to unlock financial flows and scale up investments in sustaining peace activities, as well as to build inclusive and strategic partnerships that ensured an integrated and coherent approach to peacebuilding on the ground.

4. The Peacebuilding Commission had a vital role to play by providing a partnerships platform to bring all actors together to facilitate dialogue; to discuss national and regional-level experiences; to bridge understanding on shared interests and goals; to facilitate requests for international support; and to explore opportunities for scaling up strategic partnerships. Recent initiatives by the Peacebuilding Commission to enhance its convening role had included a review of its working methods, in order to be able to consider the peacebuilding needs of countries not formally on its agenda, as well as its collaborative in-country work with other United Nations entities. The Commission had also worked to strengthen cooperation with regional organizations and international financial institutions and had created new focal points on key thematic issues.

5. However, more work should be done by the Commission to deepen and broaden strategic partnerships for sustaining peace. That work could include involving new partners and experts to support peacebuilding financing in innovative ways, such as by helping to increase domestic resource mobilization, to fight illicit financial flows, and to strengthen collaboration with regional financial institutions and the private sector to sustain peace. Such efforts could increase integration and coherence among key partners and would likely help to leverage funding from international financial institutions and official development assistance.

6. Demand for the work of the Peacebuilding Commission continued to grow each year, despite a persistent funding shortfall. Although new sources of financing might be found, the need remained for adequate and predictable financing for sustaining peace to be provided by all Member States and donors in order for a longer-term approach to peacebuilding efforts to be adopted. It was time for the General Assembly to look at how to broaden support for peacebuilding efforts through new and innovative models for sustainable financing. All partners were urged to redouble their efforts to sustain peace around the world.

Closing statement on the annual session

7. **The Chair** said that, true to the theme of the session, "Partnerships for financing for peace", progress had been made in building stronger partnerships with key financial stakeholders. In particular, the World Bank and the Commission had adopted a joint statement on holding an annual dialogue to strengthen the partnership on peacebuilding and sustaining peace, which he hoped would contribute to overcoming silos and promoting greater collaboration between the United Nations and the World Bank. Very constructive discussions had also been held with experts from key partners, including regional and international financial institutions, civil society and Governments. The first discussion had covered good practices and lessons learned in ensuring sustainable, high-quality and long-term financing, while the second had looked at ways to enhance

collaboration on effective resource mobilization between the United Nations and other stakeholders.

8. Considerable insight had been gained into the mechanisms being used by the United Nations and the World Bank to develop a more prevention-oriented approach, and he was heartened by the ideas that had been shared. It was simply not sustainable to spend billions on crisis response and invest so little in prevention. Prevention would require much closer collaboration between the United Nations and the World Bank, building on their complementarities. The World Bank global crisis response platform and the Secretary-General's prevention platform could, for example, drive financing for prevention and coherence across the system. Many different financial instruments and mechanisms were available besides official development assistance, including remittances and domestic financial institutions. The African Development Bank, along with civil society and other stakeholders, had raised the need for longer-term investment and innovative financial diversification, as well as the need to translate policy discussion into action on the ground. Those measures would increase the peacebuilding impact of operations without significant financial implications. The critical role of women in development and sustaining peace had been a recurring theme in the discussions and continued to be a priority, while capacity-building for prevention and peace was not the responsibility of a single entity and was therefore contingent on partnership. He looked forward to implementation of the United Nations-World Bank partnership framework for crisis-affected situations and to a shift from funding to finance and partnership. Peacebuilding and sustaining peace was not a piecemeal exercise; rather, it required a comprehensive, integrated approach.

9. In an environment marked by stagnant or decreasing official development assistance, innovative solutions and enhanced partnerships would be required to find additional financial resources for sustaining peace. More could and must be done with the resources available, but further investment could prevent conflict and unlock new financial flows, saving billions of dollars in crisis funds and ensuring the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals.

10. He was more optimistic about the future of the peacebuilding community, given the renewed commitment shown by all stakeholders and partners to building stronger partnerships for financing for peace and their recognition of the role and importance of the Commission. As Chair, he was firmly committed to using the Commission's convening power as effectively as possible to help the international community mobilize and use financial resources in a more coherent and integrated manner, thereby strengthening the nexus between peace and development.

The meeting rose at 5.20 p.m.